



## Who are refugees?

The 1951 Refugee Convention spells out that a refugee is someone who ...

*“owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”*

## Where Do I Go To Receive Benefits?

### Baltimore City Community College \*\*

Baltimore .....410-986-5464

### Baltimore Mayor's Office of Employment Development

Baltimore .....410-396-3009

### Ethiopian Community Development Council \*\$

Silver Spring ..... 301-562-7301

### International Rescue Committee \*\$

Baltimore .....410-327-1885

### International Rescue Committee \*\$

Silver Spring .....301-562-8633

### Jewish Community Services \*\$

Baltimore .....443-451-2256

### Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area \*\$

Hyattsville .....240-714-4034

### Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Baltimore .....410-767-6664

### Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees

Baltimore .....410-767-7514

### Montgomery County Community College \*\*

Silver Spring .....240-567-1409

### Prince George's Community College \*\*

Hyattsville .....301-546-8449

### World Relief \*\$

Anne Arundel .....410-760-4514

\* Signals a local refugee Resettlement Agency

\*\* Signals where you can learn English as Second Language

\$ Signals where you can apply for RTCA



# MORA

## Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees

*We provide support and services to federally-recognized refugees and political asylees to ease their integration into American society.*

**For general inquiries contact  
MORA at:  
410-767-7514**



Maryland's Human Services Agency



Maryland's Human Services Agency



MORA has helped more than 40,000 refugees make Maryland their home, aiding their transition from “displaced persons” to independent, contributing members of the national economy and the local communities. We work through a network of public and private service providers, to plan, administer, and coordinate transitional services aimed at helping refugees become self-sufficient as quickly as possible. Key areas for aiding refugees in adjusting to American life include financial assistance, community orientation, career and English language training, and case management.

## Who is eligible for MORA Services

Our programs and services are available to individuals who are:

- Admitted in the U.S. as a refugee under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
- Granted asylum under Section 208 of the INA
- Cuban or Haitian entrants, in accordance with the requirements of 45 CFR Part 401
- Amerasians from Vietnam admitted to the US pursuant to section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Appropriations Act, 1988
- Victims of a severe form of trafficking certified by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to receive public assistance
- Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders

## What is needed to apply

- Proof of immigration status for everyone in your household
- Proof of residence
- Proof of all of your household income (from all sources)
- Proof of benefit closure in another state if applicant is a secondary migrant

## Refugee Transitional Cash Assistance (RTCA)

The federal government fully funds the state of Maryland to administer RTCA. The program provides financial assistance to cover basic expenses while recipients search for gainful employment. The program is comparable to Maryland’s Temporary Cash Assistance for Families (TCA) program in benefits and requirements, but is designed for qualified immigrants who are ineligible for TCA.

## Initial Refugee Health Screening Program (IRHS)

Resettlement agencies are responsible for ensuring newly arrived refugees receive an Initial Health Screening (IRHS) upon arrival to the U.S. IRHS appointments determine if new arrivals have medical conditions that need immediate attention. Children also receive immunizations required for school enrollment at the IRHS. After the IRHS, clients are referred to a primary care physician for preventive health and ongoing care.

## Employment Assistance:

Self-sufficiency for clients is the goal of the refugee resettlement program. It is achieved when individuals and families reach a level of economic well-being requiring no government support. Self-sufficiency is achieved through a wide range

of social and employment services aimed at improving life for economically disadvantaged populations. Using an array of programs and strategies, MORA’s grantees offer employment services tailored to each refugee’s needs. A few examples of employment services funded by MORA include:

- Job Readiness Training
- Resume Writing
- Job Search Assistance
- Vocational Training
- Interview Preparation
- Transportation Assistance
- Interpretation during job interviews
- Post-placement mentoring for vocational success

## English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)

Helping refugees develop English language proficiency is critical to MORA’s mission because refugees who speak English realize faster social integration and economic self-sufficiency. Through our ESOL classes, we also prepare participants for the Citizenship Exam. MORA funds free ESOL classes throughout the State.